

AIR POUCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : CIUDAD TRUJILLO, D. R.

242

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

December 7, 1955

REF : CA-4159 of November 29, 1955

USUN-1

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	W/4	CIA-7 IN-7 COM-8 TR-3

SUBJECT: OAS Specialized Conference on Continental Shelf and Oceanic Waters

I discussed the above subject with Foreign Minister Enrique de MARCHENA this morning and left with him a memorandum embodying the substance of my comments. It was deemed inadvisable to place the discussion on the official plane connoted by an aide memoire, and hence the memorandum route was taken.

Dr. Marchena assured me that his Government is "fully aware" of the undesirable consequences which would ensue from a flare-up in the Conference of the controversial claims of some participating countries to domain over more than three miles of territorial waters and, moreover, the Dominicans recognize that acrimonious debate in the Conference on that, or any other, controversial issue might conceivably wreck the Conference with resulting disparagement to the OAS as a whole. He said that he had received from Ambassador SALAZAR a memorandum relating to the conference of November 22, 1955 between the Ambassador and Ambassador DREIER, and that he (Marchena) is wholly in accord with the view that an earnest effort should be made to arrive at understandings among the governments to be represented at the Conference, in advance thereof, to the end that the possibility of conference controversies might be minimized. Hence, Ambassador Salazar will be encouraged to discuss the situation with his Washington colleagues, and the diplomatic representatives of the Dominican Republic in various of the Latin American countries will be instructed to explore the situation with the Foreign Ministers of the countries to which they are accredited.

Dr. Marchena stated that my presentation of this subject came, at an opportune time in the sense that he is scheduled to confer with President TRUJILLO next week concerning the time for holding the Conference, and the agenda thereof. He said that the United States viewpoint, as set forth in my memorandum, would be of great aid to the President and himself in formulating their plans and policies for the Conference. He expressed warm appreciation for our action in giving him the benefit of our ideas this far in advance of the Conference.


 William T. Pfeiffer

WTPfeiffer/dts

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